

**Senate File 99 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 99  
BY BOLKCOM

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a solar energy rebate program and fund, and  
2 making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 469.12 Solar energy rebate program.

2 1. The office shall establish a solar energy rebate program.  
3 The purpose of the program is to offer financial incentives to  
4 encourage the installation of solar thermal and photovoltaic  
5 solar energy systems in the commercial, agricultural, and  
6 residential sectors.

7 2. Sixty percent of the moneys deposited in the solar  
8 energy rebate program fund pursuant to section 469.13 shall be  
9 allocated for the awarding of rebates to qualifying commercial  
10 or agricultural applicants, and forty percent of such moneys  
11 shall be allocated for awards to qualifying residential  
12 applicants. A rebate may be received for up to thirty percent  
13 of the costs of installation, subject to a maximum award of  
14 fifteen thousand dollars for a commercial or agricultural  
15 installation and three thousand dollars for a residential  
16 installation. The amount of a rebate for which an applicant  
17 may be eligible shall be reduced by the amount of any similar  
18 rebate or incentive for the development of alternate or  
19 renewable energy awarded by the applicant's electric utility  
20 for the same installation.

21 3. Eligibility criteria for the program shall include the  
22 following:

23 a. An applicant shall complete and submit an energy audit  
24 conducted either by or on behalf of the applicant's electric  
25 utility or through a private energy audit service.

26 b. The solar thermal or photovoltaic system must qualify  
27 for the energy star efficiency rating developed by the United  
28 States environmental protection agency.

29 c. The installation must be performed by a licensed or  
30 certified installer qualified to install solar energy systems  
31 and equipment, and must meet or exceed all applicable local  
32 building codes and ordinances.

33 d. An applicant must meet eligibility criteria for the  
34 awarding of any similar rebate or incentive for the development  
35 of alternate or renewable energy offered by the applicant's

1 electric utility, if applicable.

2 4. Application forms and additional approval criteria shall  
3 be established by the office by rule.

4 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 469.13 Solar energy rebate program —  
5 fund established — appropriation.

6 1. A solar energy rebate program fund is created in the  
7 state treasury to be administered by the office. Moneys  
8 deposited in or appropriated to the fund shall be used to  
9 administer the solar energy rebate program and award rebates  
10 pursuant to section 469.12.

11 2. There is annually appropriated from the general fund  
12 of the state to the office the sum of ten million dollars for  
13 deposit into the fund to administer the solar energy rebate  
14 program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in  
15 this section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the  
16 close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain  
17 available for expenditure for the purposes designated until the  
18 close of the succeeding fiscal year.

19 EXPLANATION

20 This bill establishes a solar energy rebate program  
21 administered by the office of energy independence to encourage  
22 the installation of solar thermal and photovoltaic solar energy  
23 systems in the commercial, agricultural, and residential  
24 sectors.

25 The bill provides that moneys appropriated for the program  
26 shall be allocated on the basis of 60 percent for rebates  
27 to qualifying commercial or agricultural applicants, and 40  
28 percent to qualifying residential applicants. The bill states  
29 that an applicant may receive a rebate for up to 30 percent  
30 of system installation costs, subject to a maximum award of  
31 \$15,000 for a commercial or agricultural installation and  
32 \$3,000 for a residential installation, but reduced by the  
33 amount of any similar rebate or incentive for the development  
34 of alternate or renewable energy awarded by the applicant's  
35 electric utility for the same installation.

1 To be eligible for a rebate, the bill states an applicant  
2 shall complete and submit an energy audit, the installation  
3 must qualify for the energy star efficiency rating developed  
4 by the United States environmental protection agency, the  
5 installation must be performed by a licensed or certified  
6 installer qualified to install solar energy systems and  
7 equipment and meet or exceed all applicable local building  
8 codes and ordinances, and an applicant must meet eligibility  
9 criteria for the awarding of any similar rebate or incentive  
10 for the development of alternate or renewable energy offered  
11 by the applicant's electric utility, if applicable. The  
12 bill provides that application forms and additional approval  
13 criteria shall be established by the office by rule.

14 The bill establishes a solar energy rebate program fund  
15 in the state treasury under the control of the office, and  
16 appropriates \$10 million annually from the general fund of the  
17 state for deposit into the fund to administer the program and  
18 award rebates. The bill provides that amounts so appropriated  
19 remaining unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the  
20 fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for  
21 expenditure for the purposes designated until the close of the  
22 succeeding fiscal year.